

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device (1) for generating a medium stream, which device (1) comprises a chamber (4), which chamber (4) comprises chamber walls (2, 3) lying opposite one another and at least one medium opening (15', 16', 27, 28, 29, 30) for the medium stream (8) and is equipped with a diaphragm means (5), which diaphragm means (5) is provided and constructed for generating the medium stream (8) and which diaphragm means (5), in an inactive operating state of the device (1), is arranged substantially untensioned in the chamber (4) between the chamber walls (2, 3) and associated with which diaphragm means (5) are drive means (6), responsive to electrical drive signals, for driving the diaphragm means (5) to deform the same, the drive means (6) being arranged to impose a deformation on the diaphragm means (5) in an active operating state of the device (1), during which deformation the diaphragm means (5) have an inner mechanical tension.
2. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive means (6) comprise electrodes (2.1, 2.2 . . . 3.3) arranged on the chamber walls (2, 3) lying opposite one another.
3. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 2, wherein the diaphragm means (5) comprises a metal foil.
4. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 2, wherein the diaphragm means (5) comprises a foil made of a dielectric material.
5. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm means (5) consists at least partly of piezoelectric material.
6. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 5, wherein the diaphragm means (5) comprises an electrode.
7. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm

means (5) comprises two end regions (5.1, 5.2) provided a distance apart from one another, which end regions (5.1, 5.2) are fixed in the chamber (4).

8. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive means (6) contain an electromechanical drive element (17), and the diaphragm means (5) has an end portion (5.1) that is connected to the electromechanical drive element (17).

9. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamber (4) is of substantially cuboidal construction and comprises two end walls (15, 16) lying opposite one another.

10. (Original) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamber (4) comprises at least two medium openings (27, 28, 29, 30) provided spaced apart from one another.

11. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm means (5) has an at least substantially constant thickness.

12. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 9, wherein the diaphragm means (5) is fixed with two opposing end regions (5.1, 5.2) to the end walls (15, 16) of the essentially cuboidal chamber (4).

13. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive means (6) are designed to impose a deformation having at least a pre-determinable frequency.

14. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 12, wherein the drive means (6) are designed to impose a cyclic deformation in the form of a traveling wave on the diaphragm means (5).

15. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 9, wherein the diaphragm means (5) is fixed with one end region (5.1) close to one end of the cuboidal chamber (4) to the one chamber wall (3) of the mutually opposed chamber walls (2, 3) and with an

opposite end region (5,2) close to the opposite end of the chamber (4) to the other chamber wall (2) of the mutually opposed chamber walls (2,3).

16. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 15, wherein the diaphragm means (5) comprises a transition portion (10) extending in operation substantially at right angles to the chamber walls (2,3) lying opposite one another.

17. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 15, wherein medium openings (15',16') are provided at both ends of the chamber (4).

18. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, in which device (1) the medium stream (8) is a stream of a gaseous medium.

19. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, which is provided for the generation of sound by means of the medium stream generated.

20. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, which is provided as pump device for the medium stream.

21. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a number of chambers (4) are provided in the device (1), which chambers (4) are arranged in one unit.

22. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm means (5) and/or the chamber walls (2,3) have an insulating layer (11).

23. (Currently Amended) A device (1) as claimed in claim 2, wherein the diaphragm means (5) and/or the chamber walls (2,3) have a structured surface.

24. (New) A device for generating a medium stream, the device comprising:

 a chamber having chamber walls lying opposite one another and at least one medium opening therebetween for passing a medium stream;

a diaphragm and extending laterally between the opposing chamber walls, the diaphragm being substantially untensioned in the chamber between the chamber walls in an inactive state;

electrodes on each of the opposing chamber walls and responsive to electrical drive signals by imposing a deformation on the diaphragm in an active operating state of the device, during which deformation on the diaphragm has an inner mechanical tension, the deformation causing fluid flow in the chamber in a direction that is about parallel to the chamber walls.

25. (New) The device of claim 24, wherein the electrodes are separate from and not in contact with the diaphragm.

26. (New) The device of claim 24, wherein the electrodes are arranged on the chamber walls and electrically coupled to apply an electric field signal to cyclically draw the diaphragm towards a first chamber wall and to repel the diaphragm from another chamber wall.